

ASTRO*INTELLIGENCE

Psychological Horoscope Analysis

for Maya Angelou

Astrological Interpretation and Text by
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Programming by
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ASTROLOGICAL DATA USED FOR THE ANALYSIS:

name: **Maya Angelou** (female)

birthdate: **April 4, 1928**

place: **Saint Louis, MO**

long: **90w12** lat: **38n37**

local time **14:10**

U.T. **20:10**

sid. time **03:00:45**

method **Liz Greene**

houses: **Placidus**

5-Sep-2008

PLANETARY POSITIONS

planet	sign	degree		motion
☉ Sun	Aries	14 [°] 48'20	in house 9	direct
☾ Moon	Libra	11 [°] 21'06	in house 2	direct
☿ Mercury	Pisces	20 [°] 25'45	in house 8	direct
♀ Venus	Pisces	21 [°] 44'21	in house 8	direct
♂ Mars	Aquarius	27 [°] 53'04	in house 7	direct
♃ Jupiter	Aries	16 [°] 07'11	in house 9	direct
♄ Saturn	Sagittarius	19 [°] 05'26	in house 4	stationary (R)
♅ Uranus	Aries	4 [°] 01'25	in house 8	direct
♆ Neptune	Leo	26 [°] 40'21	in house 1	retrograde
♇ Pluto	Cancer	14 [°] 59'26	in house 11	stationary (D)
♁ Moon's Node	Gemini	12 [°] 37'24	in house 10	retrograde

HOUSE POSITIONS

Ascendant	Leo	23 [°] 57'44	Descendant	Aquarius	23 [°] 57'44
2nd House	Virgo	16 [°] 54'16	8th House	Pisces	16 [°] 54'16
3rd House	Libra	14 [°] 48'09	9th House	Aries	14 [°] 48'09
Imum Coeli	Scorpio	17 [°] 39'15	Medium Coeli	Taurus	17 [°] 39'15
5th House	Sagittarius	22 [°] 32'17	11th House	Gemini	22 [°] 32'17
6th House	Capricorn	25 [°] 12'14	12th House	Cancer	25 [°] 12'14

MAJOR ASPECTS

Sun OPPOSITION Moon 3°26	Mercury SQUARE Moon's Node 7°47
Sun CONJUNCTION Jupiter 1°19	Venus SQUARE Saturn 2°39
Sun TRINE Saturn 4°16	Venus TRINE Pluto 6°44
Sun SQUARE Pluto 0°11	Venus SQUARE Moon's Node 9°06
Sun SEXTILE Moon's Node 2°10	Mars OPPOSITION Neptune 1°12
Moon OPPOSITION Jupiter 4°45	Jupiter TRINE Saturn 2°57
Moon OPPOSITION Uranus 7°19	Jupiter SQUARE Pluto 1°07
Moon SQUARE Pluto 3°37	Jupiter SEXTILE Moon's Node 3°29
Moon TRINE Moon's Node 1°15	Saturn TRINE Neptune 7°34
Mercury CONJUNCTION Venus 1°19	Saturn OPPOSITION Moon's Node 6°27
Mercury SQUARE Saturn 1°20	Mars OPPOSITION Ascendant 3°54
Mercury TRINE Pluto 5°25	Neptune CONJUNCTION Ascendant 2°43

Numbers indicate orb (deviation from the exact aspect angle).

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I. INTRODUCTION

Once upon a time, in a less scientific age than ours, astrology was a respected study, based on ancient and empirically compiled principles and used by the learned for greater insight not only into the future, but into the soul. With the coming of the Age of Enlightenment, and the increase in man's knowledge of the material universe, it seemed for a time that studies such as astrology, in company with other symbolic maps of the cosmos, had become anachronisms - pieces of superstitious nonsense which reflected a more ignorant and gullible era. But surprisingly, astrology, despite its detractors, has refused to go the way of the flat earth, the conjuring of demons, and the turning of lead into gold. It is alive and well, growing in popularity, and once again meriting the respect of intelligent minds - for it has been brought into the modern era through our increasing knowledge of psychology and of the inner nature of man. Subjected to many centuries of suppression and ridicule, astrology has outproven and outlasted its opponents, and eloquently demonstrates that it has something of great value to offer the modern individual seeking self-understanding.

In this horoscope analysis we have endeavoured, using the insights of astrology and psychology combined with the tools of advanced computer technology, to offer you an astrological portrait which is uniquely and individually focussed and which aims at providing greater self-knowledge. This is not fortune-telling astrology, but rather, psychological astrology, developed to as deep and sophisticated a level as is possible within the perimeters of computer interpretation. No computer can perform the task of an experienced human astrologer. But we think you will find this analysis a surprisingly profound and subtle interpretation of the complex dynamics at work within you.

Shakespeare once wrote that all the world is a stage, and all the men and women merely players.

In a sense, your birth horoscope is a metaphor for the individual play, complete with stage set, cast of characters, and story, which lies at the core of your life journey. It might be useful for you to remember the metaphor of the theatre as you read through the various sections of your astrological portrait, because it can help you to understand the real meaning of fate as it is reflected by astrology. Fate does not lie in your being subjected to random pre-ordained events. It lies in the cast of characters which represent the deepest needs, conflicts and aspirations which lie within you. No person can be other than himself or herself; and every life experience, whether tiny and transient or major and transformative, reflects in some way the character of the individual.

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II. YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE

The rich array of individual attributes portrayed in your birth horoscope is set, as it is with everyone, against the backdrop of a certain temperament bias. We might call this bias your psychological "type", for it is a typical or characteristic way of responding to the situations life brings you. No one begins life whole or perfect, and all people have certain areas of strength - sophisticated and well-adapted inner characters - to help them deal with challenges, conflicts and problems. Likewise, all people have certain areas of weakness - inner characters who are underdeveloped, neglected and troublesome.

Your psychological type does not remain static and unchanging through the whole of your life. There is something within all of us - whether we call it the unconscious, the Self, or the soul - which strives toward balance and completeness, and which tries to integrate into our lives all those qualities or inner characters which have been

neglected or undervalued. At certain important junctures in life, it is as though some central core, deeper and wiser than the conscious "I", draws us into conflicts which enable us to develop our weaker areas, so that we can become more complete as human beings. Thus you will find that, incorporated in the following paragraphs about your psychological type, are some suggestions about how you might facilitate this inner movement toward a more balanced perspective on life. Life does this for us, sooner or later. But sometimes it is more rewarding and less problematic if we cooperate with the process.

Romantic vision and the gift of imagination

You are one of the world's true romantics, for your intensely active imagination must always inject into ordinary circumstances an aura of meaning, potential and purpose without which you find daily life inconsequential and sometimes suffocating. The great strength of your nature lies in your well-developed relationship to the creative power of the unconscious, which allows you to look into the future and envisage potentials which are not immediately apparent in the present. Because of this, you tend to see opportunities which others miss. You have a habit of living mostly in the future, always looking toward the next project and the next stage of the journey. Yours is a temperament which will never stagnate, because whatever you have accomplished, it is experienced not as a final achievement but as a temporary stage on the way to something bigger, better, more enriching and more meaningful.

Another strength in your character is your ability to appreciate the connections between apparently disparate facts and circumstances, and to see a story or a hidden pattern which others might ignore. You often have an instantaneous grasp of all the important factors in a situation, and can leap with a kind of hunch or "sixth sense" to a conclusion which is usually extremely accurate yet which you may not always be able to explain logi-

cally. You may or may not literally gamble with money, but you are probably willing to back your stronger hunches with effort, and therefore often obtain rewarding experiences or material gains through means which others would not dare to try. There is a quality of liveliness and colour about your interpretations of life which makes all your experiences seem like worthwhile lessons. Bad times cannot keep you down for long, for the next opportunity is always just around the corner. Mere security with no future creative possibilities is a kind of death to you, and you will often abandon your efforts just when they are about to bear fruit because it is the challenge and the journey, rather than the goal, which excite you most.

The romantic vision rejects life's limitations

However, because of your emphasis on the imaginative and intuitive side of life, you run the risk of forgetting worldly limits. You tend to be on rather poor terms with day-to-day reality and its responsibilities and demands, because these thwart the vision that means so much to you. You may resent the boredom of a routine job, feeling secretly that you are entitled to something more special and glamorous; or you may dislike having to bind yourself to domestic obligations because these stop the flow of the imagination. You may also resist having to select one thing to which you must apply yourself, preferring to feel that you have many potentials open in the future; and this could result in you becoming a "jack of all trades" who dabbles in everything and produces nothing lasting. This is the "one day when I grow up..." syndrome, which may be appropriate in youth but which begins to feel rather uncomfortable with the passing of the years.

You tend to neglect your body, or drive it too hard. You may forget at times to rest and eat sensibly; and the world of mechanical objects may seem personally inimical to you because things constantly break down and need attention and fixing. Having your time filled by tasks like servicing

the car and doing the monthly accounts can make you extremely irritable. But the more you ignore this side of life the worse it tends to get, and there will not always be someone else there to clean up the mess which you leave behind. Your lack of attention to your body may result in problems with your health, not because you are intrinsically unhealthy - in fact, you are probably blessed with a strong and energetic constitution - but because any living thing, including the flesh of which you are made, resents neglect and may retaliate with a message of its own. You are inclined to be ill at ease with your body because you have not befriended it, and thus tend toward hypochondria, or an obsession with "mastering" the body through strenuous diets and exercises which might be more punishing than helpful because they are excessive.

You will sooner or later need to make better friends with the physical world. This effort can be rewarding and exciting because your sensual nature, although often repressed or neglected, is powerful and capable of great intensity and pleasure, and your uncannily accurate intuition can also be applied to practical matters to ensure your success. Any achievement of a material kind can be enormously rewarding to you, and you possess a rare capacity to respond to nature and to the beauty of the physical world - if you will only stop running away from what you call "lower" or "unimportant". In very personal matters such as sexual expression your unease with the body can also make you shy and awkward, and here too there might be a promise of much greater fulfilment if you can allow yourself to experience the powerful demands of the instincts which you sometimes fear. Your perception of physical reality may be too negative, and it is possible that family attitudes in your early life have contributed to your undervaluing of yourself in this realm of life. If you can learn the art of being an ordinary mortal in a sometimes unromantic world, then your unusual and powerful imaginative gifts will always bring you new adventures as well as earning you concrete rewards.

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III. CHARACTER AND SHADOW

One of the most important insights gained by depth psychology has been the revelation that people are dual in nature, and contain a basic polarity of a conscious and an unconscious self. There is the individual you are familiar with -the "I" that thinks, feels and acts in accustomed ways which you identify as yourself. And there is another, hidden individual -the shadow-side - which contains the less acceptable and less developed aspects of your personality, and which fights for a valued place in your life at the same time that it disrupts the complacency of your self-image. The interplay between the conscious and unconscious sides of you is a constantly shifting dance, changing at different stages of your life and altering according to the pressures and challenges which you encounter. The tension between the primary characters in your inner drama, described in the following paragraphs, is the source of energy which provides your life with movement, purpose, conflict and growth. There are other characters inside you too - supporting players who blend and conflict with the main ones to make you the unique individual you are. Where these are strongly marked in your horoscope, we have included a description of them as well. The story thus portrayed, with its complicated interaction of light and shadow, represents what is really meant by individual destiny.

A direct and honest approach to life

There is no nonsense and no pretense about your personality and your views. You are blunt, direct and honest, and you do not try to hide behind elaborate social veneers and posturings to mask who you are and what you want. You have little patience with hypocrisy, and are not averse to directly challenging and, if necessary, offending those who offend you by their refusal to be themselves. You are intelligent without being an

intellectual snob; you enjoy luxury and pleasure and are unafraid of calling desire by its name and unashamedly pursuing what you want; and you have no illusions about the fact that life sometimes demands courage, ruthlessness and effort if a person wants to get ahead. Some people might find you a little overbearing or tactless, but it is not these people whom you wish to impress anyway. In fact you expend little energy trying to impress anybody, believing that in the end you will be judged by actions and your achievements, and that anyone worth your time will accept you as you are without fancy wrappings and bows.

A vital and rich personality due to unashamed materialism and sensuality

You want the good things in life, and are honest enough to admit it. You do not have to pose as a spiritually evolved soul, a humanitarian altruist, or a high-minded aesthetic collector of art; you want security, a nice place to live, good food, sexual pleasure and emotional companionship in your personal life, a few loyal friends, and the rest of the world can go hang. It is not that you are hard or unfeeling, for you can be very gentle and caring and patient toward those you love; and you are not a particularly aggressive person, but prefer the philosophy of live and let live. You are really rather peaceable and easily contented, and simple in the best sense of the word; for you are not fooled by embellishments and ornamentation. You can see with acute honesty the real worth of a person or a thing, and prefer your meal without the disguise of rich sauce or elaborate garnish. You love rich simple colours and textures, and have an excellent relationship with the rhythms of nature and the beauty of organic life. You are also probably naturally sympathetic to the spirit of ecology and of conserving and cherishing nature, and are disturbed when too much technology interferes with your direct sensual relationship with objects.

You are not closed to the world of ideas and cultural offerings, but can generally spot a fake, and

become rapidly bored with endless philosophising and speculating about generalities which bear no real relationship to ordinary life. Thus you may be seen as unappreciative by those who need such elaborate abstractions; but in your blunt way you generally let people know when you find them full of hot air, and people with pretenses are liable to be uncomfortable around you because of your uncompromising honesty and your way of making such pretensions seem silly instead of romantic or grand.

Honesty can become tactlessness

You are not afraid of aggression, either your own or that of others, having made peace with the necessity of going after what you want directly and being prepared to fight for it if you must. You are probably a physically active person, enjoying sport or activities which take you out into nature such as hiking or sailing; and you need regular sessions of such activities to keep yourself from building up too much physical tension, for you are not constitutionally able to sit behind a desk all day, or to immerse yourself in abstract studies which bear no relationship with natural life. You tend to say exactly what you mean, and are inclined to be a little tactless; but you are not incapable of being kind or gentle when you want to be. Rather, you resent having to adapt the expression of your thoughts and feelings to any required social expectation, and dislike those circuitous conversations which go on and on and say nothing relevant in the end. You are more likely to sit silently and then come out with something a little rude which gets everybody stirred up but which is your way of reacting to what you perceive as falsity or the wasting of your time. You are capable of getting up and rudely walking out of a party, a film, or any other situation where you become bored; for you would rather be doing something enjoyable, so why pretend? Those people who are close to you love and value you for your honesty and your vitality; and those who do not appreciate these qualities are not likely to be appreciated by you in turn.

About cynicism and calculations in relationships

You are a little cynical about issues of love, having been disappointed in your emotional needs fairly early in life; and you therefore believe in making a relationship work realistically over time even if it is not perfect and even if it does not satisfy some ethereal dream of soul-mates and transcendent mystical experiences. You are likely also to be realistic about money, making sure that you do not clutter your romantic life with financial problems - for yours is the kind of spirit that understands perfectly well that it is far nicer to love where there is money. You are not calculating so much as realistic about these things, for your family background probably exposed you to some of life's harsher realities on the emotional and financial fronts; and consequently you do not expect more than you know you are likely to obtain. In fact you are a little defensive in your rejection of romantic trappings, and this springs not only from the essential simplicity and honesty of your character but also from your fear of being disappointed in those realms where you are unsure of yourself. Thus you are likely to make a "safe" marriage or partnership, and if you sometimes miss the elusive vapour of romance and meaning, you would still rather have the old-fashioned security and reliability waiting at home than destroy your stability to chase intangibles which you cannot see and do not trust.

Integrity springs from self-honesty and a lack of hypocrisy

Thus, despite your intelligence, basic good taste and perceptiveness, you are at heart a very basic and simple personality - not simple in the sense of stupid or naive, but in the best sense of being at home with the real bones of life and people, and responsive to the beauties which are here on earth rather than those which hide behind clouds in heaven. You are straightforward and direct, warm-hearted without being sentimental and generous

without being cloyingly self-abnegating. You are one of those people whom others instinctively trust, because there is nothing false about you - you put in the shop window exactly what there is in the shop, no more and no less, and your natural intuitive capacity to read people (for someone who is instinctively honest in the deepest sense can always perceive falsity in another person) allows you to navigate the currents of others' more convoluted motives without getting harmed. Life will eventually challenge you on that side of your life in which you are uncomfortable and awkward - the worlds of the intellect and the spirit, and all the things which you cannot see and touch. But when faced with such a challenge you are likely to be as innately honest and free of pretensions as you are in the other spheres of your life.

An opposing figure which is equally strong

In contrast to this strong figure, there is another equally important character in your inner drama; and there is considerable conflict within you between these two dynamic but opposing ways of viewing and experiencing life. Probably you have lived out first one and then the other side of this conflict at various times; but the real value of such a creative tension between inner characters lies in the potential of a broad and flexible life which gives value and expression to both of them. Usually a birth horoscope will reflect one dominant theme, but yours expresses two, a description of the second of which now follows.

The longing for perfection permeates life

Beauty, order and perfection in everything - ideas, objects and human interchange - are as necessary to you as food. You crave a neat, clean and well-organised environment, as well as neat, clean and well-organised friends, lovers and partners; and if you could have your way, life itself would be neat, clean and well-organised, for you fear and dislike anything base, brutish and slovenly. When Plato wrote that 95% of the cosmos was

under the governorship of Reason, and an annoying and recalcitrant 5% under the dominance of Chaos, he expressed a vision which is very close to your heart; for some of your most fulfilling moments come when you are able to see actualised before you a little of your vision of a universe which is perfectly designed, balanced and impeccable. When you are confronted with the other 5% (which has a nasty tendency to creep in despite your efforts), you tend to either turn your back upon it and ignore it, or set about trying to clean it up.

You are likely to be attracted to beautiful philosophies as well as beautiful people, and need to believe in an ultimate order as well as in the potential for improvement. If you are an artist, you will be dissatisfied with everything you produce, always striving for some flawless reflection of your immaculate inner vision; and even if you are not preoccupied with creative pursuits, but deal in numbers or technology or research (which become creative pursuits in your hands), you bring an artist's eye to everything you see, automatically measuring life against the picture held in your heart of what it could and should be if only someone could get rid of that 5%.

The worship of the Good, the True and the Beautiful

Your refined and courteous behaviour can sometimes appear downright courtly, and you tend to recoil from brash people who make a sloppy exhibition of themselves. You probably retain your polish even when drunk. Although you tend to be democratic in spirit and in ideology, in practise you are rather aristocratic about the people with whom you associate, and if you occasionally break your own rules and plunge into a little chaos once in a while, you do it with a stylish and almost ritualistic intent which makes such episodes seem deliberate rather than spontaneous. Argument and direct aggressive confrontation make you recoil and slide away, for you prefer as pleasing and harmonious an atmosphere as possible; and if you do get dragged

into a quarrel, the last thing you can bear is any kind of violence or even shouting. You are more likely to become waspish, and cut your way through it with a quiet but vitriolic tongue.

There is considerable sensuousness in your strongly aesthetic nature, but it is not the indulgent sensuality of more earthy types; it is more a sort of wallowing in beauty for beauty's sake, and you can sit and stare at someone or something that appeals to your senses and delight merely in the looking, because the view is so pleasing. Your erotic nature is linked directly with your appreciation of beauty, and your mind and eyes must be gratified before you can express yourself physically with any spontaneity. Perhaps you love excellence a little too much, for if someone does not match up to your exceedingly high standards in every detail, you are inclined to dismiss him or her - except on those strange occasions when you become quite compulsively fascinated by the crudeness and earthiness which are so opposite to your own values. The higher you climb into your ivory tower of aesthetic perfection, the more vulnerable you are to the darker, baser aspects of life - both in a negative way (where you can become easily depressed and even ill if you are forced to endure ugliness for too long), and as a kind of fascination (echoes of Lady Chatterley's Lover). You are sometimes buffeted by deep longings to let go and indulge and shut down your ceaselessly active intellect for a time; but even if you drive yourself into coarser and wilder experiences, something always inhibits you before, during or after, for you will be a lover of beauty and order all your life.

A craving for romance and glamour

Beauty alone cannot satisfy you, for romance and a larger-than-life, mythic atmosphere must accompany whatever you create and do. There is a streak of grand theatre in you which makes you ceaselessly try to incarnate the characters of myth and fairy tale in your ordinary life. You have a fair share of vanity and narcissism, but rather than

working in a destructive way, your preoccupation with dressing the stage, the players and yourself in gorgeous and dramatic costume tends to make you more vital, creative and attractive. There is a certain naivete in you about life and about people, for you believe so much in Wonderland that you can be badly bruised and disillusioned by the world's meanness as well as your own unsuspected pettiness; and you can go around sulking for a long time because people have let you down by being ignoble. Perhaps you need to cultivate more of a sense of humour about your determined efforts to turn life into art. But despite your fundamental innocence of spirit, and your often deliberate blindness to what people are really like, you do manage, most of the time, to inject liberal doses of your romantic and colourful inner world into your actual life - to the great benefit of those who work and live with you.

You have big ideas and plan far ahead, particularly if you are involved in entrepreneurial work of any kind; and you are skilled at bringing creative products, others' as well as your own, before the public. Therefore you might do well in the producing or directing side of music, film, theatre or opera, as well as in media and advertising, where the original vision must retain its beauty and excitement even when subjected to the demands of time, money and labour. You have a knack of charming people into doing what you want, often without their realising how very persistent and tenacious you can be about promulgating your own ideas; and you should strive to avoid trapping yourself in too mundane a job which lacks colour, or too mundane a relationship which cannot accommodate some spirit of romance and adventure.

Rich aesthetic appreciation and good taste

Your perceptions and ideas are strongly influenced by your sensuous response to colour, line and form, so that your opinions and your personal taste bear an elegant and pleasing stamp. Whenever you express yourself, you reveal charm

and dexterity, even when you are being insulting; and you have a love of frivolity and silliness which provides a delightful balance to the greater depth of your intellect. Thus you are likely never to out-grow a childlike enjoyment of romantic films, stirring adventure novels, and pretty objects which are decorative although not necessarily valuable; and you have a fresh and enthusiastic response to new situations and ideas which ensures that your mind will never become stagnant, entrenched and crystalised with time and age.

You love measure and proportion, and dislike excess, whether it is emotional, verbal or material. Given the chance, everything you own would be of the best quality and in the best taste, and you would surround yourself with only those people who are intellectually stimulating and look good as well. You are not always honest about how you feel, since you like to please and fear difficult emotional confrontations; but you have great charm of expression, and even if one day you must face the consequences of your verbal evasiveness (which you indulge in always for the best of reasons), you will no doubt go through it with style and decorum.

The pleasures of beauty in form and thinking

Thus you are at heart an aesthete, a lover of beauty and reason and proportion, and a supporter of all that can instil greater harmony and grace into life. You are not a shallow person, since you possess considerable wit, insight and instinctive understanding of other people's needs. But you do not like to dwell in the deep, dark places, and anything too primitive offends you unless it is in the form of an erotic encounter which contains its own form of beauty within the apparent coarseness. Although you are not a domineering person, you do not like being controlled by others, or by your own disruptive emotions, which occasionally have a way of breaking through the basement door and disturbing your orderly life. All the arts attract you, and most likely you are also very versatile and good at more

than one of them. Life will one day challenge you on the issue of the overlooked 5% - the darkness and chaos which will always elude your understanding and your efforts at purification - for although order and beauty dominate your inner world, you, like all living things, are also part of nature, and therefore part animal. But even when confronted by this difficult issue, you will very likely handle yourself with a firm belief in reason and the ultimate triumph of sanity and balance. Most of the time, your belief is vindicated.

Another pair of important characters

The characters described so far represent in their fundamental antagonism the main theme of your inner story. Besides these figures, there is another pair of conflicting figures indicated in your birth chart which are likely to be recognisable in your life. These figures are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

Confidence in the power of human will and effort

You have great confidence in your power to shape the future and your capacity to make your life into anything you wish, as long as you are willing to make the necessary effort. Fatalistic philosophies are not for you; nor are those ideologies that transfer ultimate responsibility for one's life and one's destiny onto society, the state, or any other external agency. You find it hard to be patient and understanding with those apparently hapless souls who appear to be the victims of unfortunate circumstances. For you, there is no such thing as a blameless victim, because, as the poet William Ernest Henley once wrote: "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul." And if a person seems to be unable to take charge of his or her life, well, then, in your estimation, that individual is at best blind and unconscious, and at worst lazy, apathetic and infantile. You carry within you an heroic image of the potency of human effort; and

even if you are religious and believe in God, you are still convinced that God helps those who help themselves.

If you have become caught in a passive and stagnant lifestyle, try to look more honestly at yourself and the reasons for this capitulation. Your restless and dynamic spirit, stifled by too many strictures, can become your worst enemy, erupting eventually through the kind of physical symptoms which are rarely serious but reflect emotional red warning flags: headaches, digestive problems, tension, high blood pressure and other symbols of unconscious anger. But hopefully you know yourself well enough to ensure that your life allows you plenty of autonomy and freedom. But sooner or later life will challenge you on the issue of your own need for support and assistance from others. Although you are not an easy person to help, and are more graceful at giving than at receiving, you deserve respect and admiration for the integrity of your self-reliance.

A secret confusion and passivity

To your intensely self-reliant and wilful nature belongs a shadow-side which is a good deal more dependent, confused and lost than you are, and which contains a liberal dose of passivity and a kind of childlike trust that someone else will come along and take care of things. This secret dimension of your personality is all that you are not in your ordinary life; and it is likely that you find it profoundly uncomfortable to face your own helplessness. Therefore you may unconsciously project these qualities onto others, perceiving them as fragile souls who need your firm direction and authority, or as hysterical self-indulgent children who play the role of the victim because they will not, rather than cannot, help themselves.

Thus you are really not something out of a Superman film or comic book at all, but an ordinary human being who does not feel strong and heroic all the time. You, like everyone else need to

depend on others sometimes, for love and support if not for creative ideas; and you also sometimes need to collapse and do nothing, to feel bewildered and confused and lost for a while, to listen to your body's fatigue and your heart's yearnings, and to allow life to bring you things freely rather than trying to dictate to the cosmos as though you were a species of divinity. Respecting the inconsistency of your inner laws is not so very different from respecting fate, for on a deep level they are the same thing; and the ancient Greeks have much wisdom to teach us about the ultimate impossibility of stepping past one's innate human boundaries. You have the pride and vitality of the mythic hero/heroine, but also the arrogance; and while there may not really be a goddess of fate who gently slaps your hand to remind you that life is a mystery and that some things cannot be controlled, your own shadow-side will do this for you. For it contains the timeless wisdom of the instincts which can give you the strength to change what you can, the humility to accept what you cannot, and the wisdom to comprehend the difference.

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IV. THE FAMILY BACKGROUND

Family myths and psychological inheritance

Although you are an individual, you have emerged from a family background. A family is like a living organism, and it includes certain hereditary characteristics which have passed down through the generations. It also contains a particular set of psychological dynamics, an emotional climate which provides the first soil in which your nascent individuality took root in childhood. Thus you contain certain inner patterns, myths and attitudes toward life which you have acquired from the psychological soil of your family background. In other words, to return to our metaphor of the

theatre, the characters in your inner drama are unique; but they carry a family inheritance.

Astrology cannot tell us about physical heredity. But it can tell us a great deal about psychological heredity, which runs through families in the same way that red hair or blue eyes do. Psychological inheritance of deeply rooted attitudes often takes place on hidden, unconscious levels of which individual family members are unaware. Family myths move down the generations as surely as a distinctive facial structure does. An example of a family myth might be: "All the men in this family have been self-made and successful." Or, "All the women in this family have been disappointed by their men." Myths such as these do not need to be spoken, or even recognised, for they pass from one generation to the next via the unconscious, and they are communicated in a multitude of subtle, non-verbal ways. Thus the male child born into the family of "successful" men will inherit a particular set of expectations to which he will respond according to his own nature and his own inner characters. And the female child born into the family of "disappointed women" will inherit certain attitudes about relationships which will affect her later in life if she remains unaware of this inner script.

Because your family background is an integral part of your life story, it is reflected in your birth horoscope. Astrology can offer considerable helpful insight into this realm of life, for according to how conscious you are of the interplay between your own nature and your family inheritance, you will have more or less freedom of choice in life. Your parents themselves are also reflected in your horoscope, although they appear not as real three-dimensional people, but rather as images who embody a particular theme or set of attitudes. These parental images reflect how mother and father appear to you personally, how they operate as patterns within your own psyche, and how they support or conflict with the unfoldment of your own inner drama. The power of the family background

should never be underestimated, for it is not the past. It is a living present within each of us. As the poet Rainer Maria Rilke once wrote: "Never believe fate is more than the condensation of childhood."

The image of the father in a woman's chart

Father is not only a real person. He is the symbol of an inner pattern or perspective through which you relate to life. The image of the father portrayed in your birth horoscope therefore describes three things.

Firstly, it is a subjective picture of the qualities you experienced as most dominant in your relationship with your father - or whoever played the role of father in your early life.

Secondly, it is a symbol of what the masculine represents to you, for your father was the first man in your life. He is therefore a powerful unconscious influence not only on what you seek in male partners and on how you relate to men in general, but also on how you express the masculine or goal-orientated side of your own personality.

Thirdly, it is a picture of your own inner father-qualities: how you order and structure your life, how you envisage and pursue your goals, how you express and direct your will, and how you formulate your ethical codes and ideals.

A restrained and unresponsive figure

The subjective image of your father portrayed in your birth horoscope is a highly ambivalent one. He seems to have been a rather conservative and withdrawn person, rooted in traditional values, and preoccupied with the responsibilities of mundane life. These are positive attributes, although you may not think so, and you have inherited from him a capacity to approach worldly challenges realistically and to actualise your potentials. But you have also experienced your father as restricting and disinterested in you, and you may have felt unloved or neglected by him. He might have been overly involved with his work, or been an undemonstrative

or autocratic personality; and he was possibly also caught in the dilemma of a difficult marital relationship which made it hard for him to relate to you with overt warmth and sympathy. On some level you have been deeply hurt by your father's apparent disinterest, and you need to be careful not to repudiate all that he stands for because of your sense of inner injury. Otherwise, the "baby goes out with the bath-water", and the positive dimension of this solitary and withdrawn father-figure will be lost to you - resulting in a kind of eternal adolescence and a problem with authority in the world outside.

The expectation of rejection

You will also need to recognise that not all men are like your father, for you are prone to expect hurt and rejection from the men you love. Because you mistrust close relationships, always assuming that you will be dealt with in the end as you experienced your father dealing with you, you have a tendency to be unconsciously defensive and angry, and to try to make "deals" with your partners to ensure that they will go on loving you. This in turn can create the very thing you fear - for no person likes to be mistrusted or loved conditionally, and you can draw upon yourself the very rejection that you were trying so hard to avoid. In this respect you run the risk of unconsciously becoming like your father - avoiding closeness because of the fear of being vulnerable - while trying to defend yourself against such behaviour when you imagine it in others.

Dealing with an authority problem

Because of the experience of hurt in your relationship with your father, you may seek "good" fathers in the form of authority figures or traditional institutions which can provide you with the security you needed - but failed to obtain - from your own father. Alternatively and probably at the same time, you may carry within you great unconscious anger toward your father which is projected

upon these same authority figures in the world. Thus you carry considerable conflict in you, and the patterns of your dealings in work will reflect this. Perhaps you need to look more honestly at this parent, trying to see his complex personality beyond the circle of your own sense of injury. Insight can help you to express more creatively your own potential for realism, discipline and authority; for although you have felt rejected and unwanted, the disappointment of your childhood can foster the development of great inner self-sufficiency and strength - if you can find the delicate balance between self-reliance and the capacity to express need of and trust in others.

In addition to this dominant image, there is another figure portrayed by your birth horoscope which adds further complexity to your experience of your father.

A wielder of emotional power

You experienced your father as possessing considerable emotional power over you. This power and capacity to dominate sprang from an ability to manipulate emotional atmospheres, and was probably subtle and difficult to fight; but this image in your horoscope suggests that your father was a much stronger influence on you than he seemed.

If you remain unconscious of this dark and potent experience of your father, you will experience its effects in your resentful conflicts with male authority figures in your adult life. An individual who has experienced subtle domination is very vulnerable to anger and resentment when another person appears to have power; and you may sometimes project your experience of your father onto others and misinterpret their motives because you are still struggling with the unconscious domination of your childhood. But ultimately this figure of dominance and subtle emotional potency lies within yourself, and it is important that you see and accept it as part of your own nature. It is not others who have power over you, but you who project the

power of your inner father-image onto them - thereby giving away your own authority and reverting to the unconscious passivity of your early years. You have considerable force and determination in your own character, and this is in reality a gift and not a negative trait - if you can make the effort to face and express honestly this side of yourself which represents your psychological inheritance from your father.

There is still another image portrayed by your birth horoscope, which in certain ways conflicts with your dominant experience of your father.

A hidden immaturity

However much your father seemed to you an aloof and withdrawn figure, he contained within him another face - that of a restless, adventurous youth. At some level your father was not really able to cope emotionally with the responsibilities which marriage and fathering placed upon him, and the apparent conventionality which he might have displayed was contradicted by a much more elusive and boyish spirit. He may have escaped into a world of dreams and fantasies, or into external activities justified as "work" but which were really intended to get him away from what he experienced as the burdens and limitations of family life. This more volatile side of your father also seems to have exerted a peculiar fascination for you, which may not be fully conscious -for if you have painted him in more sombre colours, and felt accordingly resentful, you may be overlooking your secret idealisation of him, and your longing for the magical and glamorous spirit which you sensed within him. Thus, not only was your father highly ambivalent; so too are you in your feelings for him, and in turn in your capacity to express your adventurous nature in your own life.

Balancing adventure and commitment

You will need to look clearly at the split within your father, for this will help you to understand the

split within yourself -between your need for excitement, adventure, and the pursuit of the romantic dream on the one hand, and security and a solid commitment to relationship and perhaps family on the other. You have a tendency to swing to one extreme or the other, sometimes not understanding yourself, for when you have one you want the other, and are often profoundly discontented and confused about what you want from life. Eventually you can find a more balanced way of living these extremes in yourself, but this requires honesty. It is likely that your father tried to solve this problem by living out one side and ruthlessly suppressing the other -which fooled no one, particularly you, and did not bring him happiness. You have the potential for an extremely rich and creative lifestyle which encompasses both the need for stability and the need for adventure; and it is this more balanced path which will bring you fulfillment in life.

The image of the mother in a woman's chart

Mother, like father, is not only a person. She is also the symbol of an essential principle in life, and of an inner dynamic or perspective through which we relate to life. The image of the mother which is portrayed in your birth horoscope therefore describes three things. Firstly, it is a subjective description of the qualities most dominant in your relationship with your mother. Many of these will be known to you, but some might be surprising, because they reflect not only her outer behaviour, but her inner life - that side of her which was unexpressed and therefore of great power in terms of its effects on you. Secondly, the mother-image in your horoscope is a portrait of what the feminine represents to you - how you relate to yourself as a woman, and how you experience other women. Thirdly, it is a picture of your own "maternal" qualities - your capacity to nurture and care for yourself and others, your sense of safety and trust in life's essential kindness, and your ability to flow with time and circumstances and to know instinctively when to wait and accept with wisdom the situations which life brings.

A figure of powerful emotional needs

The subjective image of your mother portrayed in your birth horoscope is a powerful and pervasive one. She was probably the dominant parent in terms of psychological influence in your childhood - even if she appeared the more submissive in outer behaviour. It is on the emotional level that your mother's power was rooted, and she had the capacity to influence the feeling atmosphere of your early life through moods and through what she did not, rather than she did, say and do. Whatever her behavioural inhibitions, she was probably at heart a passionate and emotionally demanding woman, capable of enormous loyalty and equally capable of enormous resentment if she was denied the emotional food she craved.

Unhappiness, frustration and resentment

There is much in this mother-image which is extremely creative, for it represents a richness and depth of feeling, and a great capacity for endurance and self-sacrifice in the face of disappointment, which lie within you and which give you immense inner strength and courage. The problem is that your mother was probably deeply unhappy and unsatisfied in her emotional needs, and she carried great resentment and even depression or despair inside her. The more this was masked, the more profound its effect on you, for you may have within you an inexplicable but deep mistrust of life and of love - particularly love in a committed relationship.

Probably your mother's marriage was a disappointment to her, and this has communicated itself to you as an unconscious expectation of grief, sadness and disappointment in any important emotional transaction with another, either your own or your partner's. You will need to look with honesty and compassion at this darker dimension of your mother, for otherwise you run the risk of bringing this inherited bitterness into your own relationships. You are prone to feeling resentful and aggrieved sometimes without real justification, while at the

same time you may yourself avoid deep commitment because of the fear that you will wind up like your mother or that you will be devoured by a partner in the way your mother unconsciously fed off the members of her family to give her own life meaning.

If you can understand that deep feelings do not necessarily result in pain and frustration, and that your mother on some level best known to herself chose to remain in a situation which made her unhappy, then you can learn to trust your own powerful emotional needs. Your feeling nature is a gift, not a curse, and it will not immediately drag you into unhappiness if you learn to depend on another; and if you can separate your own life experience from the powerful image of your mother you can begin to draw from the positive dimensions of this quality which you share with her -strength of heart, and profound compassion for the pain of others.

In addition to this dominant image, there is another figure portrayed by your birth horoscope which adds further complexity to your experience of your mother.

A dramatic display of self-sacrifice

Your mother possessed an innately theatrical spirit, a kind of eternal girl within her which made her secretly crave romance, excitement and attention. Because it was no doubt difficult for her to express such an adventurous and enthusiastic spirit within the framework of her family responsibilities, it is probable that she used manipulative ploys which meant her exaggerating her emotional reactions, in order to gain the attention and devotion she craved. If she practised an excessive self-denial and made endless sacrifices, then no doubt she sometimes reminded everyone of her generosity a little too loudly; and the irritating manipulateness of her personality may have made it difficult for you to see the positive and joyful aspects of her youthful spirit.

You have inherited this spirit of joy, curiosity and adventure, and this is a gift which can ensure that you seek constant new challenges in life and never stagnate. But you may need to see this dimension of your mother with clarity and consciousness, for if you perceive her only as a victim, then you may be unconsciously identified with her frustration and driven to act out her un-lived adventurous spirit to the point where you fear commitment and cannot allow yourself any real stability either in personal life or in work. This facet of your mother-image is an innately creative one, a childlike and magical and dramatic perception of life. The less your mother was able to express it, the greater your challenge will be - to express this side of yourself with joy while also fulfilling your need for stability and permanence in all spheres of your life.

There is still another image portrayed by your birth horoscope, which in certain ways conflicts with the experience of your mother described previously.

The hidden explosiveness of a trapped spirit

Your mother had a shadow-side which is quite different from the emotionally dependent and conventional person you may have consciously experienced in childhood. She also possessed a powerfully independent and original spirit, and in many ways was ahead of her time - for she probably needed a professional or creative outlet for her unusual ideas and her need for freedom from too many domestic ties. But it is likely that her values -springing from her own childhood - made it difficult for her to accept this side of herself, for expressing such an independent nature may have seemed to her selfish and bad. Thus she probably repressed it, and you have unconsciously inherited the tension, explosiveness, irritability and fear of being trapped which plagued her from within.

Balancing independence and emotional needs

You may need to be more conscious of this dimension of your mother, for you too possess a strong will and an independent spirit, and you will need to express it in a creative balance with your own desire for security and relationship. The experience of this dynamic unconscious side of your mother has left you with a certain inner anxiety - which may translate itself in your adult life as a fear of sudden change and disruption. You also fear being trapped as she was, and you can take your independence to extremes. This is the legacy of the atmosphere of suppressed tension in your childhood. Try to face honestly the complexity of your mother's character, for if you can see her own internal split then you will understand your own better - and will therefore be in a much better position to express the creative dimension of this original, inventive and freedom-loving quality without violating your need of emotional commitment.

The Parental Marriage

The relationship between your parents portrayed in your birth horoscope is an important symbol of your own internal model of male-female relationships. Just as you have inherited certain psychological patterns from your parents, so too you have inherited a set of attitudes toward love, partnership and emotional commitment. Also, the astrological portrait of the parental marriage is a symbol of the dynamic between the male and female sides of yourself - between the active, mental and spiritual dimension of your personality and the receptive, instinctual and emotional one. Thus the parental marriage is both a description of an inner image of relationship and a picture of your potential for integrating the opposite poles of your own personality.

The following portrait of your parents' marriage is thus meant to be understood as a subjective, and perhaps even unconscious, image of certain

attitudes which you may bring into your adult relationships - and into your way of dealing with the complexities of your inner nature. It is not a judgement on your parents. It is an inclination toward a certain pattern in human relationship which, although probably enacted to some extent by your actual parents during the years of your childhood, is really a facet of your own inner drama.

Tension between opposing natures

You were born at a time when a tense emotional climate existed within your family. Whether this tension sprang from practical difficulties - such as financial pressures or too frequent changes of residence - or from a period of disharmony between your parents, your birth horoscope portrays that, in your subjective experience, your parents represented two opposed and mutually exclusive sets of values. Probably you felt this polarisation keenly - to the point where you sometimes felt pressured into the impossible situation of taking the side of one or the other parent. Your adult life reflects the tension which permeated the early years of your life, for you tend to bring a certain hesitancy and indecisiveness into your approach to life, swinging between what sometimes feels like two separate people within yourself, as though you were still trying to decide between the two warring parents, who now exist inside you.

Sometimes you may feel there really are two of you, mutually exclusive in needs and values, and battling all the time inside. It might be important for you to look more closely at exactly what values and attitudes your mother and father embodied for you, and to stand separate from the warfare so that you can see the validity of both. You do not need to choose between these two aspects of yourself as you once felt forced to choose in childhood; for you can make your world view and your lifestyle large enough to encompass both sides. You have considerable scope and breadth of vision because of this polarity within yourself, and you also possess a rare

gift for tolerance and the capacity to see more than one "truth". The first step toward expressing these creative attributes is to recognise that there are other ways of handling your inner split than identifying with one side and trying to stifle the other. Both are valuable and necessary to you.

V. RELATIONSHIP PATTERNS

Relationships are among the most mysterious, rewarding and frustrating of all human experiences. Both astrology and psychology teach us that nothing that occurs within a relationship is chance - neither its beginning, nor its fluctuations and conflicts, nor its ending. But astrology cannot say whether you are "fated" to have a good or a bad marriage, or whether you ought to be with a Cancer or a Sagittarius. Your birth horoscope describes what you are like inside, and therefore what kind of patterns, needs and compulsions you are likely to bring into your relationships with others. You cannot become somebody different, or send in your birth horoscope and request a new set of character. But you can be more or less conscious; and you always have the freedom to look at your own issues, to deal with needs which are your responsibility and not your partner's, and to respond to both joy and pain in creative ways.

The following paragraphs describe your attitudes, needs, and typical patterns in close relationships. This description is written about you in terms of your dealings with the man in your life. However, if you are involved in a close relationship with someone of your own sex, you will find that the same attitudes, needs and patterns still apply. Whatever your sexual tastes, you are yourself - and it is your inner nature which ultimately dictates the course of your love-life.

Themes connected to relationship issues have already been mentioned in the previous chapters, where the basic archtypal figures dominating in your birth chart were described. Therefore some of the following description will repeat and broaden parts of what has been said already. Some might also contradict, and indicate an inner contradiction inherent in your attitude towards relationships.

The attractions of the sophisticate

Since you are a direct and rather down-to-earth individual with no frills or poses, you are naturally attracted to the person who seems to scintillate with intellectual and cultural sophistication, wit, poise, and social finesse. In other words, you aim toward the heights in your relationships; and although you might dislike or even despise people whom you consider posturing fakes, you tend to be rather star-struck when you come across the real thing - a man who seems to possess genuine refinement and class. This kind of relationship can be very good for you, since you can offer your honesty, your common sense and your rare capacity to cut through the ornamentation to the deeper values beneath. On the other hand, you need someone who can help you to develop your own intellectual and aesthetic potentials, and who can open the door to a finer, more delicate and more subtle world.

Learning to appreciate the frivolous and the superficial

The problem is that you tend to idealise such a man once you have found him, and in spite of your natural self-confidence you allow him to inadvertently undermine your belief in your own abilities. And if you begin to feel inferior, you can become very aggressive, denigrating his friends and his interests, and making it clear that you prefer to spend your time and energy on the important things - thereby implying that what he does is unimportant and frivolous. You are very sensitive to the thorny issue of "class", since on the one hand you dislike such social hierarchies, and on the other hand you

are secretly envious of those who seem to have metaphorical silver spoons in their mouths - inherited or acquired. Try to learn from your partner rather than polarising into an aggressively peasant-like stance because you feel intimidated. You have no need for such destructive self-doubts, since your own earthy qualities are rare and worthwhile. You do have a need to develop on intellectual and artistic and social levels, however, which is presumably why you are attracted to such aesthetic types in the first place.

There is more than one type of man you find yourself attracted to, for your relationship needs are not simple. In addition to the theme described above, there is another relationship pattern portrayed in your birth horoscope which is described briefly in the following paragraphs.

Attractions of the sensualist

You can also feel attracted to the man who seems rougher, more primitive, more direct and somehow more brazenly honest than you. In fact you need a partner who can help you to unlock your rather inhibited but nevertheless considerable sensuality, and who can also teach you to say what you mean rather than embedding it in a series of clauses, equivocations and parentheses which would put a solicitor to shame. In return you can offer such a man your deep appreciation of the finer things in life - the world of the mind and the spirit, and the gifts of art, music, literature and good taste. But you need to be careful not to polarise yourself against your partner in a kind of Beauty-and-the-Beast scenario, for you are prone to masking your fear of your own ordinary animal nature with a certain delicate disdain. Try not to be an intellectual snob, and also try not to use this snobbery and superiority as a bludgeon when you are really angry with your partner about something else. It is likely that you are cleverer with words than your man, and more socially sophisticated. But a more basic and earthier personality possesses consider-

able intelligence and wisdom about those spheres of life where you are profoundly uncomfortable - particularly the domain of uninhibited sexual expression, and the admission of basic emotions.

Security and continuity come first

Loyalty and the sanctity of an established relationship are very high on your list of priorities when it comes to love. You are realistic enough not to expect a marriage made in heaven, and understand enough about the limits of others not to expect a fantasy of perfect spiritual and sexual love. You are also comfortable with the fact that it is easier to maintain a relationship when you and your partner are not pressured by financial difficulties, for nothing destroys love faster than anxieties about money. Therefore you are prepared to work hard with your man to build some lasting security, even if this means denying yourself many of the pleasures and interests which you might have pursued if you were on your own. Whatever life brings you, you can be comfortable with the fact that you have always been willing to work realistically at a relationship, and that in this domain of life you take nothing for granted and expect no exemptions.

Passion arises from challenge

You may be occasionally prone, as everyone is, to idealised fantasies of love; but you are not romantic enough to ignore your need for challenge, conflict and the occasional good fiery quarrel in your close relationships. Something in you is sexually sparked only when you meet a man who can stand up to you and who will not allow you to dominate him; for although you respond to beauty and harmony, you respond to passion more, and one of the primary ingredients of passion is combat. Thus you are better off accommodating this need in your life, for if you try to keep love on too even, placid and pleasant a course for too long, you may find that the love remains but the desire disappears, only to reappear somewhere else. You need to express honestly and openly your fondness for trying to

dominate your man, for you are rather self-centred in matters of love and do not enjoy compromise; but you also need to accept the fact that if you have the right partner, he will fight back. Perhaps you should have one of those relationships in which frequent shouting, smashing of plates and slamming of doors can be heard by the amused neighbours. You might find that it instantly restores interest and attraction if they have begun to wane through time and familiarity.

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VI. PATHS TOWARD INTEGRATION

As you have seen from the preceding pages, your birth horoscope offers a detailed and in-depth portrait of many aspects of your life. It is also possible to step further back from the horoscope, and to use the faculties of a telescope rather than a microscope - so that an overview of the play comes into focus. The following provide also some suggestions of ways in which conscious effort might make it possible for you to achieve greater harmony between the different components within yourself, and to strengthen that centre of the personality which psychology calls the ego, the "I". Free will may not include the possibility of becoming somebody else. But it might include the ability to stand firmly at the centre of your horoscope and feel related to the different aspects of your psyche, rather than wandering about blindly, feeling impotent and victimised by conflicting cross-currents and impulses from within yourself and from the world outside. Two people may have certain astrological configurations which are similar, but one might be buffeted by his or her inner demons like a rudderless small boat tossed on a difficult sea; while the other individual remains somehow solid and real as a person and can therefore navigate the boat intelligently through the ocean's changing currents.

The quest for meaning

You will never find fulfillment within the narrow confines of mundane life. There is something inside you that wants to travel far and wide, physically and symbolically, gathering experience and knowledge, and eventually seeking as broad and deep a philosophical understanding of life as possible. Your deepest satisfaction and sense of purpose lie in your vision of life as a quest, and no amount of material success or personal happiness will allay your restless seeking for the meaning of it all. Although you may not be conventionally religious, you are religious in the deepest sense, for this word comes from a Latin root which means "to reconnect". And that is exactly what you need to do - reconnect with a sense that there is some intelligent and beneficent power behind life, whatever name you give it and however you envision it. Whatever vocation you choose, you need to feel that you are in the service of some higher purpose and are bringing the spirit of faith and enlightenment to your little corner of the world. Thus you might enjoy fields such as teaching, publishing, writing, work involving travel and languages, and all studies concerned with human development.

However, it will not be easy for you to make the kind of commitment to such an apparently romantic idea as a quest, because your realism and pragmatism are at odds with your faith. You more than many people need to consider the complicated issue of your religious or spiritual values, and to rely on intuition as well as analytic thinking to see connections and meanings in your experiences. But you are wary of such intuitive speculation, and tend to disregard much that might enlighten and uplift you. Try to understand that intuitive knowledge can be as real and valid as empiric evidence; and that you will always be hungry for something if you do not turn your mind to the broader questions of life.

Your natural appreciation of the world of aspiration and ideas, and your idealism about the nobility

and worth of the human spirit, ensure that you are likely to find a suitable field of endeavour for your quest for meaning in life. You have vision that you wish to communicate, and ideas which you need to express. It may be necessary for you to travel a good deal, or even settle in a country other than that of your birth, before you find the right place and vehicle; and even when you put down material roots, your mind will always travel the unbounded world of knowledge.

The bigger the canvas on which you can paint your grand vision of life, the better off you will be. The worst mistake you could make would not be failure, but low aims and a narrow outlook that crushes your enquiring mind and spirit.

The importance of roots and origins

There is one area of your life where any effort to gain insight into your own feelings will always result in an increased feeling of strength and self-respect; for this is the domain of both your greatest vulnerability and, paradoxically, your greatest potential strength. It is the unhappiness of your childhood which you need to explore, for the loneliness and feelings of rejection which you experienced at an early age - although perhaps not due to anyone's deliberate hurtfulness - have left you insecure, oversensitive and unsure of the trustworthiness of others. If you hide from these early experiences, you will always inadvertently back off from others, masking your real feelings and erecting defenses to protect yourself from imagined future rejections. But if you can face what lay at the beginning of your life with insight and compassion for everyone concerned, including yourself, you will, in effect, dispel the power of a ghost - and the inner strength and understanding you gain will then always be available for any challenge life might bring.

Thus one of your chief fears - of emotional rejection, hurt and humiliation - can become an indestructible base on which you can build a unique and

enduring personal philosophy. For in confronting and exploring your own emotional inhibitions and anxieties, you will learn a great deal not only about yourself but about people in general, and why they behave as they do; and any efforts you make to heal your own wounds will ultimately reveal insights into the nature of the human spirit which will deepen and enrich the lives of those around you as well as your own.